

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention describes a platform for trading homogenous goods. In particular, a multi-attribute market can be readily configured using the platform of the present invention to provide for an efficient value added trading exchange environment. Aspects of the disclosure include a flattening function which maps predefined order characteristics into an orthogonal, normalized dimensions space. This flattening function provides for a ready comparison between active and passive orders to evaluate a matching occurrence. Additionally, the present disclosure provides a configurable platform to support a pipe and filter approach to matching functionality including name value pair and rule based algorithms. Finally, a close match concept is disclosed whereby a market maker can increase liquidity in the market by conveniently determining closely matching orders and communicating with the market participants to facilitate a transaction.